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#### Approved By:

Holly Higgins

#### Prepared By:

Deepa Dhankhar, Amit Aradhey

#### Report Highlights:

\*Indian seafood exports in question as EU and China press for regulatory compliance\*, \*Indian pulses output may increase as rain deficiency decreases\*, \*10 billion rupees diesel subsidy for paddy farmers\*, \*SEA estimates a 59 percent decrease in oilmeal exports for April-July 2009\*.

#### General Information:

Welcome to Hot Bites from India, a weekly summary of issues of interest to the U. S. agricultural community. The report includes information that has been garnered during travel within India, reported in the local media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Press articles are included and summarized in this report. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office. Minor grammatical changes have been made for clarification.

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## **INDIAN SEAFOOD EXPORTS IN QUESTION AS EU AND CHINA PRESS FOR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

Uncertainty looms over Indian seafood exports as catch certification have become mandatory for shipments to the European Union from January 1 and there are threats from China to ban marine imports from India. The EU and China are the two major export destinations for Indian seafood. The EU regulation is meant to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and requires compliance from all seafood exporting countries to Europe. Additionally, after the Indian ban on the imports of milk and milk products from China was extended further, China threatened to impose similar restrictions on imports from India, including seafood. (Source: The Business Line, 07/29/09)

## **INDIAN PULSES OUTPUT MAY INCREASE AS RAIN DEFICIENCY DECREASES**

While the rainfall deficiency continued to rise until the third week of June, the situation improved steadily between the fourth week of June and July-end. Overall rainfall deficiency remained worrisome at 19 percent end of July; On June 24, it dropped significantly from the high of 54 percent. This helped in facilitating crop plantings as well as soil moisture. According to the latest crop weather watch report dated July 31, 2009, from Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, the area under pulses crop rose to 7.35 million hectares, up 9.6 percent from the corresponding period last year. Acreage under pigeon pea is estimated at 2.73 million hectares, up 24 percent over last year, and area under urad is estimated at 1.64 million hectares as against 1.56 million hectares last year, similarly area under moong is estimated at 1.92 million hectares, up 6.5 percent over last year. If the rains in the rest of the season remain favorable for these crops, the kharif (summer planted) pulses output may begin to rise. (Source: Business Standard, 06/08/09)

## **10 BILLION RUPEES DIESEL SUBSIDY FOR PADDY FARMERS**

With paddy transplantation hit by delayed and erratic rains, Agriculture Minister Shard Pawar on Friday announced Rs 10 billion subsidy on diesel to farmers across the country. According to the latest kharif report from the Ministry, paddy transplantation was done only on 19.13 million hectares as against 25.67 million hectares in the corresponding period in 2008-09. The shortage translates to 16 percent fall in production. (Source: Business Line, 08/01/09)

## **SEA ESTIMATES A 59 PERCENT DECREASE IN OILMEAL EXPORTS FOR APRIL-JULY 2009**

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India has just compiled the data for export of oilmeals for the month of July 2009. The export during July 2009 is reduced to 173,329 tons compared

to 474,590 tons in July 2008 i.e. down by 63%. The overall export of oilmeals for April to July 2009 is reported at 787,857 tons compared to 1,908,396 tons for the same period of last year i.e. down by 59% due to weak export demand and lower crushing/processing. The exports of oilmeals support the farmers for better realization. The export market of oilmeal has developed after great efforts in last many years and India is enjoying reputation as the dependable supplier. Last months, there was a lot of confusion due to rumors that some Government departments were considering banning the exports of soymeal. The Government immediately clarified that the export of soymeal will remain open as usual and there will not be any ban, which has given a great relief to the trade and industry.

Export of Oilmeals – April to July 2009 (Qty. in M.T.)

Month	S.B. Meal	Rape Meal	G.N. Ext.	S. F. Ext.	R.B. Ext.	Castor Meal	Total Apr.Jun'09	Last Year Apr.Jun'08	Change %
Apr.'09	100,106	102,187	---	---	19,348	16,944	238,585	646,592	(-) 63
May'09	77,018	87,472	---	---	6,560	7,300	178,350	492,010	(-) 64
June'09	109,923	58,805	---	239	12,580	16,046	197,593	295,204	(-) 33
July '09	58,268	107,144	---	487	6,430	1,000	173,329	474,590	(-) 63
Apr.July'09	345,315	355,608	---	726	44,918	41,290	787,857	1,908,396	(-) 57
Apr.July'08	1,389,996	352,156	5,100	---	94,641	66,503	1,908,396		

(Source: Press Release, Solvent Extractors Association of India, 08/06/09)

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